

**REMARKS to the CLAIMS**

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 9 has been cancelled by this Amendment, thereby obviating this rejection. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Fowler (US Patent No. 6,042,572). It is deemed that the above-directed Amendments overcome these rejections.

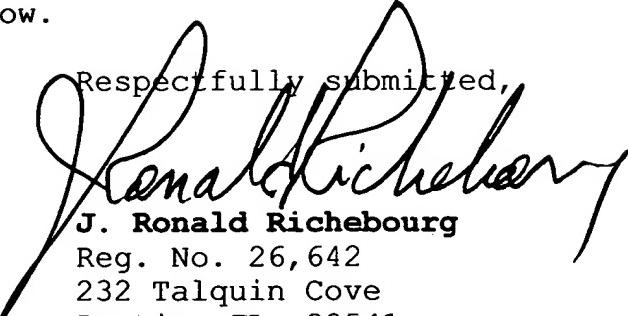
**Regarding Rejections of Claims**

The Fowler reference teaches a hygiene device and method for cleaning artificial body passageways formed between two openings by piercing. This prior art device is typically employed for cleaning internal passageways. In contrast, Applicant's claimed invention is a tool for use in laparoscopic surgery, and in particular it is used for direct application of an anesthetic to internal body parts during the surgery where the surgeon has no sense of touch and visibility is limited. The prior art device is not adaptable for such use.

In light of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejections be removed and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued. If there are any questions regarding this Revised

Amendment the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at  
the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
**J. Ronald Richebourg**

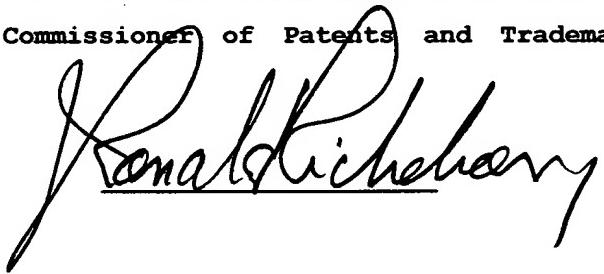
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J. Ronald Richebourg  
4/18/03